

## ON THE CODEGREE DENSITY OF $PG_m(q)^*$

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**Abstract.** For an  $r$ -graph  $G$ , the minimum  $(r - 1)$ -degree  $\delta(G)$  is the largest integer  $t$  such that every  $(r - 1)$ -subset of  $V(G)$  is contained in at least  $t$  edges of  $G$ . Given an  $r$ -graph  $F$ , the codegree density  $\gamma(F)$  is the largest  $\gamma > 0$  such that there are  $F$ -free  $r$ -graphs  $G$  on  $n$  vertices with  $\delta(G) \geq (\gamma - o(1))n$ . In this paper, we consider the codegree density of projective geometries. Employing the moment identity of a subset of  $PG_m(q)$ , we prove (1)  $\gamma(PG_2(q)) = \frac{1}{2}$  for prime power  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ ; and (2)  $\gamma(PG_3(q)) = \frac{2}{3}$  for prime power  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  or  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . Our results partially solve an open problem proposed by Keevash and Zhao [*J. Combin. Theory Ser. B*, 97 (2007), pp. 919–928]. Previously, the codegree density problems for projective geometries were settled only for  $PG_2(2)$ ,  $PG_3(2)$ ,  $PG_3(3)$ , and  $PG_2(q)$  with odd prime power  $q$ .

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**1. Introduction.** In this paper, an  $r$ -graph is always an  $r$ -uniform hypergraph. Let  $H$  be an  $r$ -graph. An  $r$ -graph  $G$  is called  $H$ -free if  $G$  contains no copy of  $H$  as its subhypergraph. The *Turán number*  $\text{ex}(n, H)$  is the maximum number of edges in an  $n$ -vertex  $H$ -free  $r$ -graph. The determination of the Turán number  $\text{ex}(n, H)$  is a fundamental problem in extremal combinatorics. An easy averaging argument shows that the nonnegative sequence  $\text{ex}(n, H)/\binom{n}{r}$  is nonincreasing and hence converges to a limit as  $n$  goes to infinity. This limit is usually called *Turán density* of  $H$  and is denoted by  $\pi(H)$ .

For simple graphs ( $r = 2$ ), Turán [16] determined the exact value of  $\text{ex}(n, K_t)$  for all complete graphs  $K_t$ . Later, Erdős and Stone [2] showed that  $\pi(H) = 1 - \frac{1}{\chi(H)-1}$ , where  $\chi(H)$  denotes the chromatic number of  $H$ . In contrast to the simple graphs, there are only a few results for the hypergraph Turán problems. For example, even the value of  $\pi(K_t^{(r)})$  is still unknown for any  $t > r > 2$ , where  $K_t^{(r)}$  denotes the complete  $r$ -graph on  $t$  vertices. It is conjectured that  $\pi(K_4^{(3)}) = \frac{5}{9}$ . Recently, there has been some new progress for the hypergraph Turán problems (for example, see [5, 6, 7, 10, 14, 17]). For more extremal results of hypergraphs, we refer the reader to the survey [9].

A natural variation of Turán problem is to consider how large the minimum degree can be in an  $H$ -free  $r$ -graph. For any  $r$ -graph  $G$ , let  $\delta(G)$  be the minimum  $d(S)$  of a set  $S$  of  $r - 1$  vertices, where  $d(S)$  is the number of edges of  $G$  containing  $S$ . The codegree extremal number  $\text{co-ex}(n, H)$  is the maximum possible value of  $\delta(G)$ , where

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$G$  is an  $H$ -free  $r$ -graph on  $n$  vertices. In [15], Mubayi and Zhao showed that

$$\gamma(H) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{co-ex}(n, H)}{n}$$

exists, which is called the *codegree density* of  $H$ .

It seems that for most hypergraphs, the codegree Turán problems are not easier than the original Turán problems. There are only a few  $r$ -graphs for which the codegree densities have been determined. In [13], Mubayi showed that  $\gamma(PG_2(2)) = \frac{1}{2}$ . Later, DeBiasio and Jiang [1] gave an alternative proof for codegree threshold for the Fano plane. Keevash and Zhao [11] studied the codegree density for other projective geometries and constructed a family of 3-graphs whose codegree densities are  $1 - \frac{1}{t}$  for all integers  $t > 1$ . In [3], Falgas-Ravry et al. determined  $\gamma(F_{3,2})$ , where  $F_{3,2}$  is the 3-graph on  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  with edges  $123, 124, 125, 345$ . Falgas-Ravry et al. [4] proved that  $\gamma(K_4^{3-}) = \frac{1}{4}$ , where  $K_4^{3-}$  is the 3-graphs on four vertices with three edges. In [12], Lo and Zhao considered the codegree density of complete  $r$ -graphs.

In this paper, we focus on the codegree problem for projective geometries. The following result can be found in [11].

**THEOREM 1.1** (see [11]). *The codegree density of projective geometries satisfies  $\gamma(PG_m(q)) \leq 1 - \frac{1}{m}$ . Equality holds whenever  $m = 2$  and  $q$  is 2 or odd, and whenever  $m = 3$  and  $q$  is 2 or 3.*

The behavior of  $\gamma(PG_2(4))$  seems different from others, and Keevash and Zhao [11] proved that

$$\gamma(PG_2(4)) \geq \frac{1}{3}.$$

Later, by the hypergraph regularity method, Keevash [8] showed the following upper bound:

$$\gamma(PG_2(4)) < \frac{1}{2} - \epsilon$$

for some  $\epsilon > 0$ .

Keevash and Zhao [11] also proposed the following open problem.

**PROBLEM 1.2.** *Is  $\gamma(PG_m(q)) > 0$  for all  $m$  and  $q$ ?*

In this paper, we will continue this investigation and determine more values of  $\gamma(PG_m(q))$ . For  $m = 2$ , we prove the following result.

**THEOREM 1.3.** *Let  $q$  be a prime power with  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ ; then we have*

$$\gamma(PG_2(q)) = \frac{1}{2}.$$

In particular, we have  $\gamma(PG_2(2^{2k+1})) = \frac{1}{2}$  for any integer  $k \geq 0$ . For  $m = 3$ , we have the following result.

**THEOREM 1.4.** *Let  $q$  be a prime power with  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  or  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ ; then we have*

$$\gamma(PG_3(q)) = \frac{2}{3}.$$

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we give some basics of projective geometries. In section 3, we prove Theorem 1.3. Section 4 contains the proof of Theorem 1.4. Section 5 concludes this paper.

**2. Preliminaries.** Let  $\mathbb{F}_q$  denote the finite field with  $q$  elements. The projective geometry of dimension  $m$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , denoted by  $PG_m(q)$ , is the following  $(q+1)$ -graph. Its vertex set is the set of all one-dimensional subspaces of  $\mathbb{F}_q^{m+1}$ . Its edges are the two-dimensional subspaces of  $\mathbb{F}_q^{m+1}$ , in which for each two-dimensional subspace, the set of one-dimensional subspaces that it contains is an edge of the hypergraph  $PG_m(q)$ .

Let  $K$  be a subset of  $PG_m(q)$ ; a line  $\ell$  of  $PG_m(q)$  is an  $i$ -secant of  $K$  if  $|\ell \cap K| = i$ . Let  $\tau_i$  denote the total number of  $i$ -secants to  $K$ ; then we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.1. *Let  $K$  be a subset of  $PG_m(q)$  and let  $|K| = k$ ; then the following equations hold:*

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=0}^{q+1} \tau_i &= \frac{(q^m - 1)(q^{m+1} - 1)}{(q - 1)(q^2 - 1)}, \\ \sum_{i=1}^{q+1} i\tau_i &= k \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} q^i, \\ \sum_{i=2}^{q+1} \binom{i}{2} \tau_i &= \binom{k}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The equations express in different ways the cardinality of the following sets:

1.  $\{\ell : \ell \text{ is a line of } PG_m(q)\}$ ;
2.  $\{(P, \ell) : P \in (K \cap \ell), \ell \text{ is a line of } PG_m(q)\}$ ;
3.  $\{(\{P, Q\}, \ell) : P, Q \in (K \cap \ell), \ell \text{ is a line of } PG_m(q)\}$ . □

**3. Dimension 2: Proof of Theorem 1.3.** Let  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . By Theorem 1.1, it suffices to show that  $\gamma(PG_2(q)) \geq 1/2$ . Let  $V$  be a set of  $n$  vertices. Partition it as  $V = V_1 \cup V_2$  so that  $||V_i| - \frac{n}{2}| < 1$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Let  $G$  be the  $(q+1)$ -graph such that if  $e$  is an edge of  $G$ , then  $(|e \cap V_1|, |e \cap V_2|) \in \{(i, q+1-i) : i \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}, 1 \leq i \leq q\}$ . Then it is easy to see that  $\delta(G) > (\frac{1}{2} - o(1))n$ .

Suppose  $G$  contains a copy of  $PG_2(q)$ . Let  $K = PG_2(q) \cap V_1$  and let  $k = |K|$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq q$ , let  $\tau_i$  denote the total number of  $i$ -secants to  $K$ . Then by Lemma 2.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad \sum_{i \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}} \tau_i &= q^2 + q + 1, \\ (2) \quad \sum_{i \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}} i\tau_i &= k(q+1), \\ (3) \quad \sum_{i \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}} \binom{i}{2} \tau_i &= \binom{k}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\binom{s}{2} \pmod{3} \equiv \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s \equiv 0 \text{ or } 1 \pmod{3}, \\ 1 & \text{if } s \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Taking both sides of (1), (2), and (3) modulo 3, we obtain

$$(4) \quad \sum_{i \equiv 1 \pmod{3}} \tau_i + \sum_{i \equiv 2 \pmod{3}} \tau_i \equiv 1 \pmod{3},$$

$$(5) \quad \sum_{i \equiv 1 \pmod{3}} \tau_i - \sum_{i \equiv 2 \pmod{3}} \tau_i \equiv 0 \pmod{3},$$

$$(6) \quad \sum_{i \equiv 2 \pmod{3}} \tau_i \equiv \binom{k}{2} \pmod{3}.$$

From (4) and (5), we obtain

$$2 \sum_{i \equiv 2 \pmod{3}} \tau_i \equiv 1 \pmod{3}.$$

Combining with (6), we have  $\binom{k}{2} \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , which is a contradiction.

**4. Dimension 3: Proof of Theorem 1.4.** In this section, we will determine the values of  $\gamma(PG_3(q))$  for prime power  $q$  with  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  or  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ . By Theorem 1.1, it suffices to show that  $\gamma(PG_3(q)) \geq 2/3$ . We divide our discussion into three cases.

**4.1.  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .** Let  $V$  be a set of  $n$  vertices. Partition it as  $V = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$  so that  $||V_i| - \frac{n}{3}| < 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . We say that a set  $A$  of vertices has type  $(a, b, c)$  if  $(|A \cap V_1| \pmod{3}, |A \cap V_2| \pmod{3}, |A \cap V_3| \pmod{3}) = (a, b, c)$ . We define a  $(q + 1)$ -graph  $G$  on  $V$  as follows. The edges are all the sets of  $q + 1$  vertices of  $V$  having type in  $S$ , where

$$S = \{(0, 1, 2), (0, 2, 1), (1, 2, 0), (1, 0, 2), (2, 1, 0), (2, 0, 1)\}.$$

First, we verify the codegree property, i.e., all possible types  $(a, b, c)$  for a set of  $q$  vertices can be obtained from a type of  $G$  by decreasing one number by 1. Noting that  $q \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , it is easy to see that  $(a, b, c)$  is a permutation of  $(1, 1, 0), (2, 0, 0)$ , or  $(1, 2, 2)$ . Since  $S$  is closed under permutation, we will only consider one case of permutations of  $(a, b, c)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (1, 1, 0)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(2, 1, 0)$  or  $(1, 2, 0)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (2, 0, 0)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(2, 1, 0)$  or  $(2, 0, 1)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (1, 2, 2)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(1, 0, 2)$  or  $(1, 2, 0)$ . Hence  $\delta(G) > (\frac{2}{3} - o(1))n$ .

Suppose  $G$  contains a copy of  $PG_3(q)$ . Let  $K_i = PG_3(q) \cap V_i$  and let  $k_i = |K_i|$ . For  $0 \leq j \leq q$ , let  $\tau_{ij}$  denote the total number of  $j$ -secants to  $K_i$ . Then by Lemma 2.1, we have

$$\sum_{j=2}^q \binom{j}{2} \tau_{ij} = \binom{k_i}{2}.$$

Let

$$L_i = \{e : e \text{ is a line in } PG_3(q), |e \cap K_i| \equiv 2 \pmod{3}\}.$$

Then it is easy to see that  $L_1, L_2, L_3$  form a partition of the lines of  $PG_3(q)$ . Hence, we have

$$|L_1| + |L_2| + |L_3| = (q^2 + 1)(q^2 + q + 1) \equiv 2 \pmod{3}.$$

On the other hand,  $|L_i| = \sum_{j \equiv 2 \pmod{3}} \tau_{ij} \equiv \sum_{j=2}^q \binom{j}{2} \tau_{ij} \equiv \binom{k_i}{2} \pmod{3}$ . Then we have

$$(7) \quad 2 \equiv |L_1| + |L_2| + |L_3| \equiv \binom{k_1}{2} + \binom{k_2}{2} + \binom{k_3}{2} \pmod{3}.$$

Noting that  $K_1, K_2, K_3$  partition the vertices of  $PG_3(q)$ , then we have

$$(8) \quad k_1 + k_2 + k_3 = q^3 + q^2 + q + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}.$$

Equation (8) implies  $k_1 \equiv k_2 \equiv k_3 \pmod{3}$  or  $\{k_1, k_2, k_3\} \pmod{3} = \{0, 1, 2\}$ , which contradicts (7).

**4.2.  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .** Let  $V$  be a set of  $n$  vertices. Partition it as  $V = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$  so that  $||V_i| - \frac{n}{3}| < 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . We say that a set  $A$  of vertices has type  $(a, b, c)$  if  $(|A \cap V_1| \pmod{4}, |A \cap V_2| \pmod{4}, |A \cap V_3| \pmod{4}) = (a, b, c)$ . We define a  $(q+1)$ -graph  $G$  on  $V$  as follows. The edges are all the sets of  $q+1$  vertices of  $V$  having type in  $S$ , where

$$S = \{(3, 1, 0), (3, 0, 1), (1, 3, 0), (1, 0, 3), (0, 1, 3), (0, 3, 1), (2, 1, 1), (1, 2, 1), (1, 1, 2), (3, 3, 2), (3, 2, 3), (2, 3, 3)\}.$$

First, we verify the codegree property, i.e., all possible types  $(a, b, c)$  for a set of  $q$  vertices can be obtained from a type of  $G$  by decreasing one number by 1. Noting that  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , it is easy to see that  $(a, b, c)$  is a permutation of  $(1, 1, 1), (2, 1, 0), (3, 0, 0), (3, 2, 2)$ , or  $(3, 3, 1)$ . Since  $S$  is closed under permutation, we will only consider one case of permutations of  $(a, b, c)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (1, 1, 1)$ , it can be obtained from  $(2, 1, 1), (1, 2, 1)$ , or  $(1, 1, 2)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (2, 1, 0)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(3, 1, 0)$  or  $(2, 1, 1)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (3, 0, 0)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(3, 1, 0)$  or  $(3, 0, 1)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (3, 2, 2)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(3, 3, 2)$  or  $(3, 2, 3)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (3, 3, 1)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(3, 0, 1), (0, 3, 1)$ , or  $(3, 3, 2)$ . Hence  $\delta(G) > (\frac{2}{3} - o(1))n$ .

Suppose  $G$  contains a copy of  $PG_3(q)$ . Let  $H$  be the set of vertices of any hyperplane of  $PG_3(q)$  and  $H_i = H \cap V_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . We claim that each  $|H_i|$  is odd. Since  $H_1, H_2, H_3$  partition the vertices of  $H$ , then we have

$$(9) \quad |H_1| + |H_2| + |H_3| = q^2 + q + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}.$$

Let

$$L_i = \{e : e \text{ is a line in } H, |e \cap H_i| \pmod{4} \in \{2, 3\}\},$$

$$L_{233} = \{e : e \text{ is a line in } H, \text{ and has type } (2, 3, 3), (3, 2, 3), \text{ or } (3, 3, 2)\}.$$

Then  $L_{233} \in L_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and the sets  $L_1 \setminus L_{233}, L_2 \setminus L_{233}, L_3 \setminus L_{233}$ , and  $L_{233}$  form a partition of the lines of  $H$ . Hence we have

$$q^2 + q + 1 = |L_1 \setminus L_{233}| + |L_2 \setminus L_{233}| + |L_3 \setminus L_{233}| + |L_{233}|$$

$$= |L_1| + |L_2| + |L_3| - 2|L_{233}|.$$

Therefore,

$$|L_1| + |L_2| + |L_3| \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.$$

Let  $\ell_j(H_i)$  denote the number of lines with exactly  $j$  points in  $H_i$ . Then  $|L_i| = \sum_{j \equiv 2,3 \pmod 4} \ell_j(H_i)$ . On the other hand, by Lemma 2.1,

$$(10) \quad \binom{|H_i|}{2} = \sum_{j \geq 2} \binom{j}{2} \ell_j(H_i).$$

Note that

$$\binom{s}{2} \pmod 2 \equiv \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s \equiv 0 \text{ or } 1 \pmod 4, \\ 1 & \text{if } s \equiv 2 \text{ or } 3 \pmod 4. \end{cases}$$

Taking both sides of (10) modulo 2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{|H_i|}{2} &\equiv \sum_{j \equiv 2,3 \pmod 4} \ell_j(H_i) \pmod 2 \\ &\equiv |L_i| \pmod 2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we obtain the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} |H_1| + |H_2| + |H_3| &= q^2 + q + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod 4, \\ \binom{|H_1|}{2} + \binom{|H_2|}{2} + \binom{|H_3|}{2} &\equiv |L_1| + |L_2| + |L_3| \equiv 1 \pmod 2. \end{aligned}$$

Considering Table 1, where  $|H_1| + |H_2| + |H_3| \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ , then we have

$$(11) \quad |H_1| \equiv |H_2| \equiv |H_3| \equiv 1 \pmod 2.$$

TABLE 1

$\{ H_1 ,  H_2 ,  H_3 \} \pmod 4$	$\binom{ H_1 }{2} + \binom{ H_2 }{2} + \binom{ H_3 }{2} \equiv 1 \pmod 2$
$\{0, 0, 1\}$	0
$\{0, 2, 3\}$	0
$\{1, 1, 3\}$	1
$\{1, 2, 2\}$	0

Let  $U_i = V(PG_3(q)) \cap V_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , where  $V(PG_3(q))$  is the vertex set of graph  $PG_3(q)$ . Fixing a point  $x \in U_1$ , we count the size of the following set:

$$\{(y, H) : y \in U_2, x, y \in H, H \text{ is a hyperplane of } PG_3(q)\}.$$

For each  $y$ , there are  $q + 1$  hyperplanes containing  $x$  and  $y$ , so the number of pairs  $(y, H)$  is  $(q + 1)|U_2|$ , which is even. On the other hand, there are  $q^2 + q + 1$  planes containing  $x$ , and each contains an odd number of points from  $U_2$  by the above claim (see (11)), which implies that the number of pairs  $(y, H)$  is odd, a contradiction.

**4.3.  $q \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ .** Let  $V$  be a set of  $n$  vertices. Partition it as  $V = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$  so that  $||V_i| - \frac{n}{3}| < 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . We say that a set  $A$  of vertices has type  $(a, b, c)$  if  $(|A \cap V_1| \pmod 4, |A \cap V_2| \pmod 4, |A \cap V_3| \pmod 4) = (a, b, c)$ . We define a  $(q + 1)$ -graph  $G$  on  $V$  as follows. The edges are all the sets of  $q + 1$  vertices of  $V$  having type in  $S$ , where

$$S = \{(0, 1, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 1, 0), (0, 3, 3), (3, 0, 3), (3, 3, 0), (1, 2, 3), (1, 3, 2), (2, 1, 3), (2, 3, 1), (3, 1, 2), (3, 2, 1)\}.$$

First, we verify the codegree property, i.e., all possible types  $(a, b, c)$  for a set of  $q$  vertices can be obtained from a type of  $G$  by decreasing one number by 1. Noting that  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , it is easy to see that  $(a, b, c)$  is a permutation of  $(1, 0, 0)$ ,  $(1, 1, 3)$ ,  $(1, 2, 2)$ ,  $(2, 0, 3)$ , or  $(3, 3, 3)$ . Since  $S$  is closed under permutation, we will only consider one case of permutations of  $(a, b, c)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (1, 0, 0)$ , it can be obtained from  $(1, 0, 1)$  or  $(1, 1, 0)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (1, 1, 3)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(1, 1, 0)$ ,  $(1, 2, 3)$ , or  $(2, 1, 3)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (1, 2, 2)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(1, 2, 3)$  or  $(1, 3, 2)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (2, 0, 3)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(2, 1, 3)$  or  $(3, 0, 3)$ . If  $(a, b, c) = (3, 3, 3)$ , then it can be obtained from  $(0, 3, 3)$ ,  $(3, 0, 3)$ , or  $(3, 3, 0)$ . Hence  $\delta(G) > (\frac{2}{3} - o(1))n$ .

Suppose  $G$  contains a copy of  $PG_3(q)$ . Let  $H$  be the set of vertices of any hyperplane of  $PG_3(q)$  and  $H_i = H \cap V_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . We claim that each  $|H_i|$  is odd. Since  $H_1, H_2, H_3$  partition the vertices of  $H$ , we then have

$$(12) \quad |H_1| + |H_2| + |H_3| = q^2 + q + 1 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}.$$

Let

$$L_i = \{e : e \text{ is a line in } H, |e \cap H_i| \pmod{4} \in \{0, 1\}\},$$

$$L_{011} = \{e : e \text{ is a line in } H, \text{ and has type } (0, 1, 1), (1, 0, 1), \text{ or } (1, 1, 0)\}.$$

Then  $L_{011} \in L_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and the sets  $L_1 \setminus L_{011}$ ,  $L_2 \setminus L_{011}$ ,  $L_3 \setminus L_{011}$ , and  $L_{011}$  form a partition of the lines of  $H$ . Therefore, we have

$$q^2 + q + 1 = |L_1 \setminus L_{011}| + |L_2 \setminus L_{011}| + |L_3 \setminus L_{011}| + |L_{011}|$$

$$= |L_1| + |L_2| + |L_3| - 2|L_{011}|.$$

Hence

$$|L_1| + |L_2| + |L_3| \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.$$

Let  $\ell_j(H_i)$  denote the number of lines with exactly  $j$  points in  $H_i$ . Then  $|L_i| = \sum_{j \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}} \ell_j(H_i)$ . On the other hand, by Lemma 2.1, we have

$$(13) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{q+1} \ell_j(H_i) = q^2 + q + 1,$$

$$(14) \quad \sum_{j \geq 2} \binom{j}{2} \ell_j(H_i) = \binom{|H_i|}{2}.$$

Note that

$$\binom{s}{2} \pmod{2} \equiv \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s \equiv 0 \text{ or } 1 \pmod{4}, \\ 1 & \text{if } s \equiv 2 \text{ or } 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Taking both sides of (14) modulo 2, we obtain

$$\binom{|H_i|}{2} \equiv \sum_{j \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}} \ell_j(H_i) \pmod{2}.$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} |L_i| &= \sum_{j \equiv 0,1 \pmod{4}} \ell_j(H_i) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{q+1} \ell_j(H_i) - \sum_{j \equiv 2,3 \pmod{4}} \ell_j(H_i) \\ &\stackrel{(13)}{=} q^2 + q + 1 - \sum_{j \equiv 2,3 \pmod{4}} \ell_j(H_i) \\ &\equiv 1 - \binom{|H_i|}{2} \pmod{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we obtain the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} |H_1| + |H_2| + |H_3| &= q^2 + q + 1 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\ \binom{|H_1|}{2} + \binom{|H_2|}{2} + \binom{|H_3|}{2} &\equiv 3 - (|L_1| + |L_2| + |L_3|) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Considering Table 2, where  $|H_1| + |H_2| + |H_3| \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , we then have

$$(15) \quad |H_1| \equiv |H_2| \equiv |H_3| \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.$$

TABLE 2

$\{ H_1 ,  H_2 ,  H_3 \} \pmod{4}$	$\binom{ H_1 }{2} + \binom{ H_2 }{2} + \binom{ H_3 }{2} \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$
$\{0, 0, 3\}$	1
$\{0, 1, 2\}$	1
$\{1, 1, 1\}$	0
$\{1, 3, 3\}$	0
$\{2, 2, 3\}$	1

Let  $U_i = V(PG_3(q)) \cap V_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , where  $V(PG_3(q))$  is the vertex set of graph  $PG_3(q)$ . Fixing a point  $x \in U_1$ , we count the size of the following set:

$$\{(y, H) : y \in U_2, x, y \in H, H \text{ is a hyperplane of } PG_3(q)\}.$$

For each  $y$ , there are  $q + 1$  hyperplanes containing  $x$  and  $y$ , so the number of pairs  $(y, H)$  is  $(q + 1)|U_2|$ , which is even. On the other hand, there are  $q^2 + q + 1$  planes containing  $x$ , and each contains an odd number of points from  $U_2$  by the above claim (see (15)), which implies that the number of pairs  $(y, H)$  is odd, a contradiction.

**5. Conclusion.** If  $a \leq b$ , then  $PG_a(q) \subseteq PG_b(q)$ , hence  $\gamma(PG_a(q)) \leq \gamma(PG_b(q))$ . Table 3 summarizes the known results of the codegree densities of projective geometries. It seems that the determination of  $\gamma(PG_m(4^k))$  is quite hard. In [8, 11], the authors proved that  $\frac{1}{3} \leq \gamma(PG_2(4)) < \frac{1}{2}$ , and the lower bound is based on the classification of the blocking sets of  $PG_2(4)$ . In general, we do not know the classification of the blocking sets of  $PG_m(q)$ .

In this paper, we determine some new families of codegree densities of projective geometries. Our main technique is employing the moment identity of a subset of  $PG_m(q)$  (Lemma 2.1). For  $m = 4$ , we can get similar equations, such as (7) and (8), but there are many solutions since there are more variables. It would be interesting to determine  $\gamma(PG_m(q))$  for  $m \geq 4$ .



TABLE 3  
Known results of  $\gamma(PG_m(q))$ .

$m \backslash q$	2	4	Odd $q$	$2^{2k+1}, k \geq 1$	$2^{2k}, k \geq 2$
2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$[\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2})$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$[0, \frac{1}{2}]$
3	$\frac{2}{3}$	$[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}]$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$[0, \frac{2}{3}]$
4	$[\frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}]$	$[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}]$	$[\frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}]$	$[\frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}]$	$[0, \frac{3}{4}]$
$m \geq 5$	$[\frac{3}{4}, 1 - \frac{1}{m}]$	$[\frac{1}{2}, 1 - \frac{1}{m}]$	$[\frac{2}{3}, 1 - \frac{1}{m}]$	$[\frac{2}{3}, 1 - \frac{1}{m}]$	$[0, 1 - \frac{1}{m}]$

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